

REMARKS

This Response is responsive to the Office Action mailed October 27, 2005.

Claims 1-26 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e), as being anticipated by Chew (6,636,383). Reconsideration and withdrawal of these rejections are respectfully requested.

The actuator arm assembly of claim 1 is claimed to be stamped from a single flat sheet of material and is claimed to include three portions; namely, a first actuator arm portion, a second actuator arm portion and an actuator arm-joining portion integrally joining the first actuator arm portion to the second actuator arm portion.

Chew does not teach a stamped actuator arm assembly that includes first and second actuator arm portions and a third portion that integrally joins the first and second actuator arm portions. Indeed, Chew's actuator arm assembly 2 includes separate first and second actuator arms 6, 30 mounted on a spacer 54 and does not include an actuator arm-joining portion that integrally joins the first and second actuator arm portions, as required by the claim. In fact, although the Office identified alleged counterparts in Chew for each of the other recited structures, the §102(e) rejection did not identify any structure or reference number in Chew that would correspond to the claimed actuator arm-joining portion. This is because the upper and lower actuator arms 6, 30 are separate structures in Chew, as best seen in Figs. 6 and 7. Therein, Chew's actuator arm assembly 2 is shown as two separate major structures: the upper actuator arm 6 and the lower actuator arm 30. The structure joining the upper and lower actuator arms 6, 30 is the interconnect portion 98 of the flex cable 74, and not the claimed actuator arm-joining portion integrally joining the first actuator arm portion to the second actuator arm portion. It is respectfully submitted that Chew does not teach any structure that corresponds to the claimed

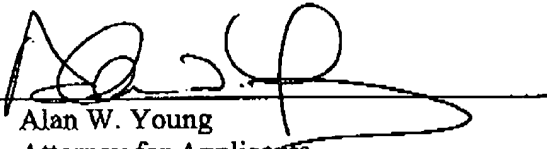
actuator arm-joining portion. Therefore, Chew cannot anticipate claim 1 and its dependent claims. Independent claims 8 and 15 each recite the actuator arm assembly defined by claim 1. As such, claims 8 and 15 are believed to be allowable for at least the reasons detailed above relative to claim 1. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the 35 USC §102(e) rejections are, therefore, respectfully requested.

Applicants believe that this application is now in condition for allowance. If any unresolved issues remain, please contact the undersigned attorney of record at the telephone number indicated below and whatever is necessary to resolve such issues will be done at once.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: Feb. 22, 2006

By: _____


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